REMARKS

U.S. Patent NO. 6,025,053 teaches a method for manufacturing wood structures wherein undesired parts are removed from the starting material formed by coniferous wood so as to obtain semi products, and the semi products are combined into a joined wood structure by finger jointing through the use of glue and the joined wood structures are combined into a laminated wood structure by lamination.

There is no teaching in this document that the starting material is subjected to a preservative heat treatment. It is argued that the '053 patent to Grenier does not anticipate the present invention as set forth in claim 1, nor does it make it obvious. We would acknowledge that joined wood structures are combined into laminated wood structures by means of lamination, and therefore, lamination is per se a known method of assembling larger wood structures from relatively small parts. In this manner a wood structure is obtained which can easily have much larger dimensions than the products obtained by finger jointing alone. By fitting the constituent parts together in a correct manner, the end product can be obtained with more isotropic properties than truly natural wood. This is the case for both the products obtained by finger jointing alone and for the products obtained by the combination of finger jointing and laminating.

Application of the combination of finger jointing and laminating provides a number of additional advantages compared to either only preserved wood and solid wood, such structures have much greater strength, are less susceptible to cracking and are more form retaining, thus less sensitive to stresses naturally occurring in wood and are more readily suitable for woodworking processes such as planing and profiling.

It must be noted however that by subjecting the starting material to a preservative heat treatment according to the invention, the wood structures can be better preserved. Further, by applying the preservative heat treatment to the starting material the cell structure of that wood changes and whereas it was generally certain that as an affect of this change in the joined wood structure, obtained by finger jointing with the use of glue, the finger joint will be a weak spot in the wood structure. Surprisingly, empirical

have shown that such joints can be made as strong as joints not subjected to a preservative heat treatment and thus the result is neither anticipated nor obvious.

It is urged that this application is in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 07-1900.

Respectfully submitted,
JENSEN & PUNTIGAM, P.S.

By _____
Robert A. Jensen 24,268
Attorney for Applicant

E-mail: bj@jensenpuntigam.com

(206) 448-3200
Fax: (206) 441-5514
2033 6th Avenue, Suite 1020
Seattle WA 98121

RAJ:mw